

Application No.: 10/047,471
Filing Date: January 14, 2002
Docket No.: 577-521
Page 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are in the specification. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. The present amendment amends claim 1. No new matter has been added.

The present invention discloses a connector for connecting multiple conductors to a transformer. The connector is a generally elongate cylindrical body having a central bore therethrough, which may be internally threaded to accommodate the externally threaded transformer stud. The connector is integrally formed single piece metallic member having high electrical conductivity and further includes an elongate conductor accommodating portion which is a generally solid rectangular member extending the length of the cylindrical body. The conductor accommodating portion extend along the cylindrical body in side by side relationship. The portion includes a plurality of longitudinally spaced conductor receiving ports spaced along the length of the conductor accommodating portions so as to be longitudinally coextensive with the longitudinal bore of the central body. Each of the ports extend from one side surface of the conductor accommodating portion so that conductors inserted into the ports are inserted from the same direction. The conductor accommodating portion further includes a plurality of set screw accommodating apertures, wherein each set screw aperture in communication with the respective conductor receiving port so that set screws may be inserted therein to mechanically and electrically secure the ends of the conductors within the stud connector.

The main advantage of the present invention is that it provides a transformer stud connector, which will accommodate multiple cables without extending the overall length of the connector.

Application No.: 10/047,471
Filing Date: January 14, 2002
Docket No.: 577-521
Page 5

35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) Rejection of Claims 1-3

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,214,806 to Kraft (hereinafter "Kraft"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more distinctly state that which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits the rejection with respect to claim 1-3 is obviated in light of the amendment of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1-3 in light thereof.

The Kraft patent discloses an electrically conductive connector adapted to be coupled with a stud to form an electrical connection. The connector includes an electrical terminal with an electrically conductive terminal aperture. The aperture has a larger diameter than the stud so as to facilitate introduction of the stud therein. A set screw is threadedly mounted on the electrical terminal in position to be actuated from the exterior of the electrical terminal to be reciprocally passed across the aperture to engage the stud inserted therein and form a fixed electrical connection between the stud and connector and to resist movement from any forces applied to the connector. Also provided is at least one terminal port to facilitate electrical connection to selected conductors. Set screws are provided to form the tight interconnection between conventional conductors which are inserted through the terminal port.

The connector of the Kraft patent clearly differs from the connector claimed in Applicant's invention. The Kraft patent fails to show a connector for attachment to an extending transformer stud having conductor insertion apertures spaced along the length of the conductor accommodating body "in step-wise fashion above and below said body in side-by-side relationship", as recited in amended independent claim 1. Kraft discloses a connector having threaded end aperture and terminal ports adapted to receive electrical conductors. Set screws are provided for the tight interconnection between the conductors

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application No.: 10/047,471
Filing Date: January 14, 2002
Docket No.: 577-521
Page 6

and the connector. The conductors are held in position by threaded set screws which are in alignment with the terminal ports. The connector has a threaded end aperture which is perpendicular to the terminal ports, and is designed to receive reciprocally therein a mounting stud of a conventional transformer. The terminal ports are arranged longitudinally along the axis of the threaded aperture. In contrast to the present invention, the Kraft patent fails to show or describe a connector for attachment to an extending transformer stud having conductor insertion apertures spaced along the length of the conductor accommodating body **"in step-wise fashion above and below said body in side-by-side relationship"** as recited in amended independent claim 1. As described in column 2, lines 46-57, and shown in Fig. 1 of Kraft, ports 30 and 32 and set screws 34 and 36 are positioned in perpendicular relationship to each other respectively along the axis of the threaded end aperture, not in step-wise fashion above and below the central aperture.

As amended claim 1 recites features not found in the Kraft patent, claim 1 cannot as a matter of law be anticipated by Kraft, which places amended claim 1 in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from amended independent claim 1 and incorporate by reference all the features thereof. Applicant maintains that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Kraft because the reference fails to teach all of the features of the claim as discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable for the same reasons as advanced for the allowability of claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection of Claims 4-9

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Application No.: 10/047,471
Filing Date: January 14, 2002
Docket No.: 577-521
Page 7

Claims 4 - 9 depend from amended independent claim 1 and incorporate by reference all the features thereof. Applicant maintains that Kraft fails to teach all of the features of the amended independent claim 1 as discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 4 - 9 are allowable for the same reasons as advanced for the allowability of claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicant deems this application to be in condition for allowance and solicits such action.

In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicant's attorney respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Cannavale
Registration No. 44,585
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700